

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims which are currently of record in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fishing rod support comprising:
 - a) a restriction member comprising a substantially vertical, elongated member having a vertical, longitudinal axis, and a vertical opening from one end of said member, which vertical opening extends substantially along said vertical axis and is configured to receive a rod portion of a fishing rod so that a longitudinal axis of said rod portion is substantially perpendicular to said vertical axis and said vertical opening substantially limits rotational movement of said rod portion about said vertical axis; wherein said vertical opening is a substantially tapered opening extending from the upper end of said restriction member and tapering down to a point at a location disposed between the upper and lower ends of the restriction member, said restriction member having at least one guidepost extending perpendicularly from said restriction member; and
 - b) a retaining member, co-axial to, and operatively coupled to, the restriction member so that said retaining member slides along said vertical axis of said restriction member, and has a wall section which defines a horizontal opening along the side of said retaining member, said horizontal opening being an opening on one side of said retaining member and disposed at a position between the upper and lower ends of said retaining member, and a slot extending from or near the top of said retaining member to a point between the upper and lower ends of the retaining member, said slot of said retaining member is adapted to engage the at least one guidepost of said restriction member, and wherein said retaining member is relatively movable between:
 - i) a substantially closed position in which said restriction member blocks said horizontal opening and prevents access to said vertical opening through said horizontal opening; and

ii) an open position in which said restriction member does not block said horizontal opening, so that access to said vertical opening through said horizontal opening is available,

and wherein said retaining member is normally biased to said closed position, and an upward vertical movement of said rod portion along said vertical axis and in a direction perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said rod portion, moves said retaining member from said closed position to said open position whereby removal of said rod portion of said fishing rod from said vertical opening through said horizontal opening and thus from said fishing rod support is possible.

2. (Cancelled) The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the restriction member comprises at least one substantially vertically aligned rod guide.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining member is substantially tubular.

5. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 4, wherein the restriction member is substantially tubular.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a ground engager configured to releasably secure the support to the ground.

9. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 8, wherein the ground engager comprises an auger bit.

10. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support further comprises a mount.

11. (Previously Amended) The support as claimed in claim 10, for use with a fishing rod handle holder having a pocket for receiving a fishing rod handle, wherein said pocket has a pocket axis which forms an angle of deflection to the vertical, and wherein said fishing rod support further comprises a neck portion, and said neck portion forms an angle which is substantially supplementary to said angle of deflection.

12. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 11, wherein the mount is configured to engage the pocket.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled) The support as claimed in claim 2, wherein said substantially vertically aligned rod guide is a substantially vertical slot.

15. (Previously Amended) The support as claimed in claim 1 wherein said vertical opening is a V-shaped slot extending from one end of said restriction member.

16. (Previously Amended) The support as claimed in claim 1 wherein said horizontal opening is defined so as to have an upwardly angled upper surface so that said rod portion slides upwards and outwards when exiting from said restriction member.

17. (New) The support as claimed in Claim 1 having a plurality of guideposts.

18. (New) The support as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said horizontal opening on said retaining member is a substantially multiple curved opening.

19. (New) The support as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said slot on said retaining member extends to the top of said retaining member.

20. (New) The support as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said slot on said retaining member is located opposite the horizontal opening.